

SENATE
Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on
Monday, September 25, 2023 at 3:00 p.m
Hybrid
Windsor Foundation Room (Room 170) CHEB & Remote Link via Microsoft Teams

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, September 25, 2023

Present

A. Aiken, O. Akinkugbe, M. Ali Ulku, D. Anderson, J. Andrews, O. Bankole, S. Berge, A. Bernard, S. Bishop, D. Black, E. Black, K. Brooks, R. Chang, V. Chappe, B. Davis, K. Dilcher, A. Doucette, P. Doyle-Bedwell, O. Dryden, L. DuBois, Y. El Hiani, H. El Nagggar, R. Ezekiel, M. Farrimond, G. Gagnon, M. Goudreault, D. Grantham, D. Gray, S. Harding, F. Harvey, D. Jakeman, M. Keinast, A. Kermanshahi-pour, N. Kiepek, M. Knakriah, M. Leonard, Y. Liu, L. Macdonald, C. Macdonald, P. Marignani, S. McKibbon, C. McLarney, R. Meagher, B. Merritt, F. Naghibi, H. Niu, M. Pacurar, Y. Pan, L. Phillmore, A. Rau-Chaplin, T. Richard, R. Sampangi, L. Sarson, S. Seth, M. Sharaput, D. Silvio, L. Spiteri, V. Simedoh, M. Smit, S. Stone, D. Tyers, D. Westwood, S. Wildeman

Regrets

T. Akay, J. Blustein, I. Coutand, S. Kirk, Y. Kotlyarova, T. Perrot, M. Vandenburg, R. Zaiotti

Absent

G. Adolphe-Nazaire, R. Affoo, C. Brown, S. Chitnis, N. Ezzeddine, M. Fournier, G. Horne, G. Ilie, E. K. Yiridoe, W. Lahey, C. Lake, C. Macy, R. Orji, N. Patil, T. Rajack-Talley, K. Rosen, A. Rudnick

Guests

John Hope (General Counsel & University Secretary), Shannon Johnson (Associate Professor & Director of Clinical Training, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience), Sapna Natarajan (Student Minute Taker), Judith Ng'ethe (Associate Secretary of Senate), Nakita Strowbridge (Senate Coordinator)

The Dalhousie University Senate acknowledges that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People and pays respect to the Indigenous knowledges held by the Mi'kmaq People, and to the wisdom of their Elders past and present. The Mi'kmaq People signed Peace and Friendship Treaties with the Crown, and section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 recognizes and affirms Aboriginal and Treaty rights. We are all Treaty people.

We recognize that African Nova Scotians are a distinct people whose histories, legacies and contributions have enriched that part of Mi'kma'ki known as Nova Scotia for over 400 years.

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was **approved** as presented.

2. Consent Agenda

2.1 Approval of Draft Minutes of July 27, 2023 Senate Special Meeting

THAT the draft minutes of the July 27, 2023 Senate special meeting be approved as circulated.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

2.2 Approval of Draft Minutes of September 11, 2023 Senate Meeting

THAT the draft minutes of the September 11, 2023 Senate meeting be approved as circulated.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

2.3 Senate Planning and Governance Committee: Senate Nominating Committee Nominations

THAT the Senate approve the list of nominees to the Senate Nominating Committee, as presented.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

2.4 Senate Planning and Governance Committee: Academic Amnesty Request for 13th Annual Mawio'mi at Dalhousie University – October 18, 2023

THAT Senate approve that all individuals involved in synchronous teaching delivery (face-to-face, in person or online) at Dalhousie University on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. allow Indigenous students who wish to attend the 13th annual Mawio'mi at Dalhousie University to do so without academic penalty due to their absence, subject to the following:

1. Students are to inform their professors at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance (by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 17, 2023) if they plan on missing an assessment in order to attend the Mawio'mi.
2. Make-up assessment(s) will be at the discretion of course instructors, subject to appropriate faculty regulations.
3. For the inclusion of students travelling from and to the Truro or Yarmouth campuses, no specific time is provided.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

3. Matters Arising from July 27, 2023 and September 11, 2023 Meetings:

3.1 Proposal for New Program - Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS), FGS and Faculty of Medicine

Senator Spiteri reminded the meeting that at the July 27, 2023 Senate special meeting, Senate approved the proposal for the Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) program.

The meeting was informed that subsequently, the number of seats reserved for Indigenous and Black applicants was doubled from three in each category to six. However, as neither other admissions criteria nor any other part of the proposal had changed, the alteration did not materially alter the approved proposal. Accordingly, resubmission of the proposal to Senate was not required.

Senator Anderson expounded on the rationale for the increase in reserved seats and gave an update of the program to date. Responding to a query from a Senator, Senator Anderson explained that admission of Black applicants would be managed through the Black Learners Admissions Subcommittee to be put in place which would support a formal Black Learners Admissions Pathway and a holistic review for Black learner applicants. In response to a further query regarding the definition of African Nova-Scotian for the purposes of admission into the program through the reserved seats, Senator Anderson referred Senators to the Black Learners Admissions Subcommittee.

4. Steps to Make Diversity and Inclusion a Reality

Senator Spiteri invited Dr. Shannon Johnson, Director of Clinical Training in the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience and Co-Director of the Centre for Psychological Health, to give a presentation on the new Dalhousie Centre for Psychological Health.

S. Johnson informed Senators of the soft launch of the clinic in June, 2023 and the official launch on September 12, 2023.

The meeting was informed that the mission of the Centre was to provide training opportunities for Clinical Psychology PhD students, provide evidence-based services for Nova Scotians with significant barriers to accessing mental health services and evaluate all aspects of care and training while creating an environment for innovative clinical research. The meeting was also informed of the inclusion criteria for the clinic as well as the priority populations as those who identified as African Nova Scotian, Indigenous, 2SLGBTQIA+, newcomers, current or former children in care and students from out of Province.

In response to a question regarding the potential collaboration between the Centre for Psychological Health and Dalhousie Health and Wellness, S. Johnson explained that while the Centre intended to work together with the Dalhousie Health and Wellness, it aimed to provide different services than those offered by Dalhousie Health and Wellness.

5. Reports

5.1 Chair of Senate's Report

The Chair of Senate's written report was included in the Senate meeting package and included a reminder to Senators about the 13th Annual Mawio'mi at Dalhousie University, on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 on the Studley Quad.

Senator Spiteri encouraged Senators to attend the upcoming Fall Convocation ceremonies and to apply to serve as Chairs of the Academic Teaching Awards Selection Committees, for which a call had gone out to Senators. Senator Spiteri outlined the importance of these awards which celebrated Dalhousie University outstanding Faculty.

5.2 President's Report

The President's written report was included in the Senate meeting package and highlighted recent engagements conducted by Senator Brooks, including meetings with government, participation in U15 meetings and class visits.

Senator Brooks noted that moving forward the President's report would aim to focus on items external to the University with the Provost's report focusing on internal affairs. Senator Brooks informed the meeting of the of the Chancellor and the President and Vice-Chancellor installations that would occur during the Fall convocation ceremonies. In closing, Senator Brooks spoke to sharing the extensive knowledge held by various Faculties at Dalhousie to address underlying issues.

5.3 Questions for Reports

There were no questions for reports.

FOR APPROVAL

6. Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC)

6.1 Full Proposal for Proposed Creation of College of Digital Transformation, Faculty of Management and Faculty of Computer Science

Senator Spiteri informed the meeting that the full proposal for the proposed creation of the College of Digital Transformation, under the Policy for Academic Unit Consolidation, Renaming, Establishment, Termination and Transfer (AU-CRETT), was considered by the Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC) at its June 14, 2023 meeting and recommended to Senate for consideration.

The meeting was informed that the proposed College of Digital Transformation (CDT), would be jointly governed by the Faculty of Management and the Faculty of Computer Science, and that the rationale for the creation of the joint academic unit was the increasing collaboration between the two Faculties in the area of digital transformation. The college would serve as a home for the Faculties' digital transformation joint initiatives, which would make it easier to communicate the university's activities with current students, prospective students, and outside stakeholders. The unit would have an aligned and interconnected focus on teaching, research, and practical application in digital transformation. The Faculties would provide co-directors for the College, who would direct the strategic and managerial operations of the unit with administrative staff support and with the Faculties providing operating resources. The Co-Directors would report to the Deans of the founding Faculties. An advisory board would be developed to give non-binding advice to guide the activities of the college. The resources for academic programs would remain the responsibility of the participating Faculties. No Faculty members would be appointed directly to the college and all appointments would be cross appointed from their primary Faculty, or adjunct appointments following the existing processes in each Faculty.

The meeting was further informed that the Faculty of Management Council and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Computer Science had both approved the proposal for the establishment of a new academic unit in March 2023.

Responding to a query, Senator Rau-Chaplin advised that the college model was adopted as it allowed for academic and research functions and the potential for external donations.

In response to a further question, Senator Rau-Chaplin confirmed that other Faculties were welcome to collaborate through the college in a similar manner as the founding Faculties.

Responding to an additional question, Senator Rau-Chaplin clarified that the College would be funded by the Faculties and there would be no noteworthy administrative overheads incurred by the College.

Responding to a question regarding the Inclusive Excellence and Core Values section of the proposal regarding increasing diversity, Senator Smit advised that resources would be sought to support cohorts of students from equity deserving groups.

Moved by Senator Spiteri on behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee:

THAT Senate recommend the full proposal for the creation of the College of Digital Transformation, Faculty of Management and Faculty of Computer Science, to the Board of Governors for approval.

The motion **CARRIED**.

6.2 Proposed Extension of Suspension of Section 6.5 (a) of the Senate Constitution – In-Camera Status of Senate Standing Committee Meetings

Senator Spiteri gave an overview of the Senate April 11, 2021 suspension of Section 6.5 (a) of the Senate Constitution regarding the default in-camera status of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC), the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC) and the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC) for the Fall 2022 term, and the extension of the suspension to apply to the Winter, Spring and Summer terms 2023, approved by Senate on January 9, 2023.

The meeting was informed that it was proposed that Section 6.5 (a) of the Senate Constitution be extended for the 2023-24 academic year, to enable the removal of the default in-camera status of the three standing committees be considered together with amendments of the Senate Constitution resulting from the Governance review.

Moved by Senator Spiteri on behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee:

THAT Senate approve that the suspension of Section 6.5 (a) of the Senate Constitution be extended to apply to the 2023-24 academic year, with regard to the default in-camera status of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee, the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee and the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee, as follows:

- a) The following Senate standing committees should hold open meetings, by default:
 - i. Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC);**
 - ii. Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC); and**
 - iii. Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC);****
- b) The meetings of the standing committees be open to all non-member Senators, who may attend only as non-participating observers;**
- c) Meeting agendas will be circulated to all Senators in advance;**
- d) Any non-member Senator wishing to attend a meeting make a request to do so with the Secretariat by no later than five days before the meeting, as space allotments for meetings may be limited;**
- e) The meeting agenda indicate any sessions that are to be held in-camera, but the topic under discussion not be identified. The agenda simply indicate “in-camera session,” with no further detail;**
- f) The decision for designating agenda items as in-camera rest with the committee chair;**
- g) Non-member Senators may not attend any in-camera deliberations;**
- h) Minutes of the meetings of the standing committees be stored on the Senate Brightspace site and be available to all Senators; and**
- i) Minutes of in-camera sessions of the standing committee meetings be taken but be kept and stored separately from the minutes of the open session.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

FOR DISCUSSION

7. Question Period

There were no questions.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm.